

## STUDY NOTES ON I JOHN 1:1-4

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### I JOHN 1:1-3 • FELLOWSHIP WITH THE ETERNAL ONE

The difficulty of translating the Greek word "Koinonia" – fellowship, in its deepest sense, communion, partners, partakers, distribution, common. A complete sharing.

#### I. The Eternal Existence of Jesus Christ.

- A. "That which was from the beginning."
  - 1. "In the beginning was the Word..."
  - 2. "In the beginning God created..."
  - 3. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning..."
- B. "That eternal life which was with the Father."
  - 1. Prophecy of Micah 5:2, "Whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting."
  - 2. "Before Abraham was, 'I AM.'" John 8:58

#### II. The Humanity of Jesus Christ

- A. "The Word was God; The Word was made flesh. and dwelt among us."
  - 1. "Let this mind be in you... and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men." Philippians 2:5-8
  - 2. "God was manifest in the flesh." I Timothy 3: 16
- B. The disciples walked with Him, talked, looked upon, heard Him, touched Him.
  - 1. With incredible awe, John reflected upon what actually happened.
    - a. When we heard Him, we were hearing the voice of God.
    - b. When we saw Him, we were seeing God.
    - c. When we touched Him.
    - d. Looked upon, staring transfixed.
  - 2. Through Jesus, men hear voice of God.
    - a. "God who at sundry times and in..," Hebrews 1:1,2
    - b. "The Words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself..."John 14:10
  - 3. Through Jesus, men can see God.
    - a. Philip cried, "Show us the Father and it sufficeth us..."John 14:8
  - 4. Through Jesus, man can touch God.
    - a. That infinite chasm which could not be bridged by man, was bridged by God.
      - 1) Religions are the futile attempts of finite men to reach the infinite God.
      - 2) Christianity is the infinite God reaching finite man.

#### III. The Purpose of Christianity is to bring men into fellowship (Koinonia).

- A. Fellowship with one another.
  - 1. This deep, close intimate communion with one another.
    - a. Bound together in His love.
    - b. Sharing together His goodness,
  - 2. The depth of fellowship can only be attained in Christ.
    - a. I thrill at the prospect.
    - b. I enjoy its blessings.
- B. Something yet more incredible.
  - 1. It is possible to have this koinonia with God.
  - 2. Fellowship, communion, partners, in common.
  - 3. This is made possible only through Jesus Christ.
- C. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world, he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life'. John 8:12
  - 1. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship.

## I JOHN 1:1-4 - THE GOSPEL

### I. The Substance of the Gospel Summed Up In Christ.

- A. He is divine and eternal; vs. 1
  - 1. Compare John 1:1, 'In the beginning was the Word.'
  - 2. Any attempt to make Christ anything less than scriptures asserts Him to be is wrong.
- B. He is human and historical: vs. 2
  - 1. 'And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.'
  - 2. 'The fullness of the Godhead bodily.'
  - 3. Philippians, "He who was in the beginning with God."
  - 4. Second stage of thought development, that eternal God, the creator of all of the universe became as man and lived on earth.
- C. He is life giving and unique. 'That eternal life;' vs. 2
  - 1. Word of life.
  - 2. 'In Him was life.'
  - 3. Jesus said, 'I have come that ye might have life;' 'He that hath the Son hath life,'
  - 4. To possess Christ is to possess life.

### II. The Guarantee of the Gospel.

- A. How are we made aware of the truths?
  - 1. Apostolic experience; vs. 1.
    - a. We have heard.
    - b. We have seen with our eyes.
    - c. We have looked upon.
    - d. Our hands have handled.
  - 2. Apostolic Testimony; vs. 2
    - a. They were bearing personal testimony to facts they had seen.
    - b. Attesting the truth.
  - 3. Apostolic Communication; vs. 3

### III. Purpose of the Gospel- Fellowship: Divine and Human.

- A. What is fellowship?
  - 1. Partnership
  - 2. Something shared by all.
  - 3. The beautiful experience of Eden restored.
- B. With Whom is our fellowship from divine standpoint?
  - 1. First with the Father.
    - a. Access into His presence - awareness of His love, assurance of His favor.
  - 2. Then with the Son.
- C. Fellowship from human standpoint.
  - 1. 'With us' included apostles and all fellow Christians.

### IV. Results of Gospel.

- A. Joy is result of Gospel.
  - 1. Joy is threefold: past forgiveness, present blessing, future hope.
  - 2. The source of joy.
    - a. This comes from fellowship.
      - 1) Happiness and joy contrasted.
    - b. Paul, 'Sorrowful yet always rejoicing,' Because joy not in circumstances but in Lord.
  - 3. The extent of joy, not just joy but ...
    - a. 'Fullness of joy;' - 6 times.
- B. Consecration -John 3:29  
Obedience -John 15:10  
Brotherly Prayer -John 16:24  
Protection -John 17: 13  
Fellowship, brotherly love -II John 12  
Fact - Faith - Feeling - Fellowship – Fullness